

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**5 METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR BUILDING COMMERCIAL DISTRIBUTED
COMPUTING NETWORKS VIA COMPUTER COST SUBSIDIZATION**

A method and apparatus for distributed computing in
10 a network data processing system. A task is accepted for
distributed computing. Work units are sent to a
plurality of data processing systems on a network,
wherein each data processing system within the plurality
of data processing systems includes a software for
15 accepting a work unit, processing the work unit to
generate a result, and returning the result, wherein the
software is monitored for compliance with an operation
policy requiring a connection to the network and
allocating a period of time for processing work units.
20 Results are received from the plurality of data
processing systems. These data processing systems may be
individually owned by consumers in which the systems are
provided at no cost or some lower cost in return for
making available processing resources for processing work
25 units.